

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /131 W
----- 078592

R 160830 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7129

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO CELEBRATES CONSTITUTION IN KARACHI

REF: ISLAMABAD 3017

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN VISIT OF JUST UNDER 24 HOURS TO
HARACHI APRIL 14-15, PRESIDENT BHUTTO MADE TALKS STRESSING
PARTY- WISE AND REGIONAL UNIVERSALITY OF NEW CONSTITUTION,
MADE BID FOR STRONGER SUPPORT FROM KARACHI' S MIDDLE AND
UPPER CLASSES, AND LIFTED BAN ON LOCAL URDU NEWSPAPER.
AIRPORT ARRIVAL RECEPTION AND WELCOME FROM CROWDS ALONG
STREETS, CONSISTING OF PPP WORKERS AND LOWER- CLASS URBAN
AND RURAL ELEMENTS, WAS TRULY TUMULTUOUS. RECEPTION BY
MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASS GROUPS AT SIND GOVERNOR' S GARDEN
PARTY WAS SOMEWHAT MORE RESTRAINED. END SUMMARY.

1. FOR SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE PRESIDENT' S PLANE SET DOWN AT
KARACHI CIVIL AIRPORT, JUST BEFORE 11 A. M. APRIL 14, CROWDS
BEGAN THRONGING APPROACHES TO AIRPORT, SOME OBVIOUSLY PPP
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WORKERS TRANSPORTED IN TRUCKS AND BUSES, BUT OTHERS
OSTENSIBLY ORDINARY PEOPLE, LARGELY URBAN WORKERS, BUT
ALSO INCLUDING SOME RURAL SINDHI ELEMENTS. FOR FIRST TIME
ON A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT HERE ENTIRE CONSULAR CORPS WAS SUMMONED
TO GREET PRESIDENT AND SEE HIM OFF. AS WE APPROACHED
AIRPORT ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE ARRIVAL TIME THERE WAS
DANCING AND SINGING IN THE ROADS AS FAR AS A MILE AWAY FROM
AIRPORT ENTRANCE AND VISITORS' BALCONY AT AIRPORT ITSELF WAS
JAMMED WITH CROWD IN VERY HIGH SPIRITS. WHEN PLISSENT
ARRIVED, HE FIRST GREETED SIND MINISTERS, MNA'S, MAP'S, AND
ASSEMBLED FOREIGN CONSULS, THEN, IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE
A SPUR-OF- THE-MOMENT DECISION, WALKED LENGTH OF PATH BELOW
SPECTATOR GALLERY TO THUNDEROUS AND APPARENTLY SPONTANEOUS
CHEERING. HE THEN PAUSED TO MAKE IMPROMPTU TEN- MINUTE
SPEECH IN URDU, MAIN POINTS OF WHICH WERE THAT:
CONSTITUTION WAS FRAMED BY SINDHIS, PUNJABIS, PATHANS,
BALUCHIS, AND MUHAJIRS (REFUGEES) WORKING TOGETHER, NOT
BY JUST ONE ELEMENT OF POPULATION; AND IT WAS NOT RPT NOT
HE WHO SHOULD BE FELICITATED ON THIS OCCASION, BUT HIS
AUDIENCE, BECAUSE IT WAS THEIR CONSTITUTION, NOT HIS.

2. AT LATE AFTERNOON GARDEN PARTY GIVEN BY SIND GOVERNOR,
BEGUM LIAQUAT ALI KHAN FOR UPWARDS TO 5,000 INVITED
GUESTS (AGAIN INCLUDING ENTIRE CONSULAR CORPS AS WELL AS
TOP OFFICIALS AND MILITARY OFFICERS), PRESIDENT SPOKE IN
URDU FOR ABOUT 35 MINUTES. FIRST PART OF SPEECH DEVOTED
TO A REHASH OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH OPPOSITION OVER
CONSTITUTION, BEGINNING WITH OCTOBER 10 ACCORD AND ENDING
WITH OPPOSITION' S FINAL ACCEPTANCE; IN SUMMING UP,
BHUTTO STRESSED POINT THAT, WITH OPPOSITION' S FINAL
AGREEMENT, CONSTITUTION HAS SETTLED ONCE AND FOR ALL BASIS
ISSUES THAT HAD BEEN CAUSE OF FRICTION AND CONTROVERSY IF

PAST, AND THAT NOBODY WOULD AGAIN BE ABLE TO REOPEN SUCH
ISSUES.

3. SECOND HALF OF GARDEN PARTY SPEECH DEVOTED TO
STIRRING CALL FOR REVERSING WHAT BHUTTO CALLED " EXPLOITATION"
AND " INJUSTICES" INFLICTED ON KARACHI THROUGH THE YEARS AND
MAKING IT INTO A MODEL CITY, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ONE ON
THE SUBCONTINENT. BHUTTO SAID KARACHI, BECAUSE IT HAD
SHELTERED REFUGEES FROM ALL OVER THE SUBCONTINENT, DESERVED
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TO BE A " MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CITY", WHICH WOULD MEAN DOING

AWAY WITH EYESORE " JHUGGEE" DWELLINGS, WIDENING WHD
BEAUTIFYING STREETS, OVERCOMING WATER SHORTAGES, ETC.
AUDIENCE REACTION TO BOTH THE PRESENTATION ON THE CONSTITUTION
AND THE APPEAL FOR KARACHI IMPROVEMENT WAS APPRECIATIVE, BUT
RATHER RESTRAINED.

4. WHEN PRESIDENT SAT DOWN AFTER SPEECH HE WAS CALLED BACK
TO PODIUM BY SIND FINANCE MINISTER KAMAL AZFAR, WHO HAD
INTRODUCED HIM, AND REMINDED ABOUT THE BAN ON THE KARACHI
DAILY NEWSPAPER JASARAT. BHUTTO THEN ANNOUNCED THE
IMMEDIATE LIFTING OF THIS BAN, WHICH HAD BEEN IMPOSED
MARCH 11 (KARACHI 0354) AND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL CHARGES
AGAINST ITS EDITOR, PUBLISHER, AND PRINTER. (LOCAL PRESS
AFTERNOON APRIL 14 AND MORNING APRIL 15 ALSO ANNOUNCED
LIFTING OF SECTION 144 BAN ON PUBLIC MEETINGS, WHICH HAD
BEEN IN FORCE IN KARACHI SINCE EARLY MARCH.)

5. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF PRESIDENT ON APRIL 14 WAS A VISIT
TO JINNAH' S TOMB FOR PRAYER AND A STOP AT THE FLEET CLUB
WHERE HE ADDRESSED OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES (MNO
DETAILS OF LATTER ADDRESS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED OR COME TO
OUR ATTENTION ML ON TROPS TO BOTH PLACES, LARGE AND
ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS LINED STREETS. AIRPORT DEPARTURE
CEREMONY, AT 9:15 A. M. APRIL 15, HAD EXACTLY SAME OFFICIAL
CAST OF CHARACTERS AS ARRIVAL CEREMONY BUT ONLY SMALL
CROWDS OF PUBLIC, AND WAS ALTOGETHER A MUCH MORE SEDATE
AFFAIR.

6. COMMENT: ON THE WHOLE, KARACHI AND ADJACENT AREAS
OF SIND SEEM PLEASED AND RELIEVED THAT PERIOD OF NATIONAL
TENSION OVER CONSTITUTION FRAMING HAS COME TO END, AND
MANY ELEMENTS-- PARADOXICALLY THOSE LEAST ABLE TO COMPREHEND
TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF EVENT-- ARE HIGHLY ENTHUSIASTIC OVER
CONSTITUTION ITSELF. AT GOVERNOR' S GARDEN PARTY, BHUTTO
MADE STRONG SYMBOLIC APPEAL FOR SUPPORT FROM KARACHI' S
PREDOMINANTLY REFUGEE MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASSES, FLANKING HIMSELF
ON THE PODIUM WITH TWO LEADING REFUGEES-- GOVERNOR BEGUM
LIAQUAT ALI KHAN AND SIND FINANCE MINISTER AZFAR, AND BY
CALLING FOR LOCAL IMPROVEMENT. IT SEEMED TO ME AND OTHER
OBSERVERS WITH WHOM I DISCUSSED THE MATTER THAT THIS
AUDIENCE, WHILE ACCORDING THE PRESIDENT A CERTAIN DEGREE
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OF ADMIRATION OVER BEING ABLE TO PULL OFF THE CONSTITUTION-
MAKING EXERCISE AT ALL UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WERE STILL
CONCERNED AS TO WHETHER THIS WOULD MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE
IN THE SINDHI- REFUGEE BALANCE OR , IN THE CASE OF COMMERCIAL
AND INDUSTRIAL CLASSES, IN THE OFFICIAL POSTURE TOWARD THE

PRIVATE SECTOR. LIFTING OF JASARAT BAN WAS AN AMNESTY- TYPE
STEP THAT MAY EVOKE SOME APPRECIATION AS A POSSIBLE
HARBINGER OF A LESS VINDICTIVE POSTURE BY THE REGIME.
TIGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KARACH00573
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KARACHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730444/aaaaipnh.tel
Line Count: 177
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 ISLAMABAD 3017
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980121
Subject: BHUTTO CELEBRATES CONSTITUTION IN KARACHI
TAGS: PINT, PK, (BHUTTO)
To: NEA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005